



THE NOAA FORECAST

From the sun to the sea and everywhere in between
News from NOAA's Office of Communications

Stakeholders Share Ideas About NOAA's Future

NOAA's 2007 Stakeholder Forum attracted a broad spectrum of the agency's key constituents this week, including representatives from industry, academia, government, and non-governmental organizations.

Participants provided their input on NOAA's strategic direction in four themes: societal demands for climate information services; research and technological challenges to improving extreme weather forecasting and prediction; decision support services for hazard resilient communities, commerce, and transportation; ecosystem approaches to management in an era of changing mandates and increasing pres-

sure on ocean and coastal resources.

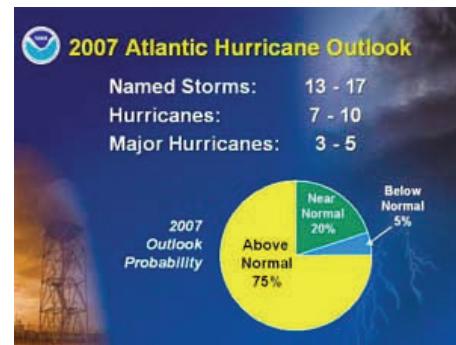
All comments were captured for the benefit of NOAA's strategic planning efforts, although consistent messages from participants emphasized the importance of leveraging NOAA's partnerships to effectively meet end user needs, communicating the value of NOAA's services, and articulating requirements for increased resources.

A complete report of the input provided at the Forum will be compiled and posted at: <http://www.ppi.noaa.gov>

Postcards from the Field



Field crew members from NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services prepare to clean and inspect the underwater portion of the tide station at the U.S. Coast Guard base in Westport, Washington.



NOAA Stresses Preparedness for Upcoming Hurricane Season

Predicting a high likelihood of an above-average hurricane season, NOAA officials urged citizens in storm threatened areas to be prepared.

"It just takes one hurricane to make it a bad year for everyone," said NOAA Administrator Lautenbacher.

Lautenbacher credited a thriving partnership with academia and the public and private sectors for building data, information models and connectivity with making the forecast possible. He also noted that such efforts saved the country \$3 billion annually.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, with peak activity occurring August through October. The NOAA Climate Prediction Center will issue an updated seasonal forecast in August just prior to the historical peak of the season.

To stay informed of hurricanes and other hazards, visit <http://www.noaawatch.gov>.

From the Helm Admiral Lautenbacher

Last week I had the great pleasure of visiting the Seattle Girls School to talk about the importance of girls pursuing science and math education.

I walked away not only impressed, but also more optimistic of the future of the sciences. We don't have enough diversity in the sciences, especially gender diversity, but the Seattle Girls School has mastered getting girls interested and excelling in science.

I found the girls I met to be incredibly engaged and engaging. Obviously I tried hard to sell them on careers as NOAA scientists.

The visit served to reinforce how important education is to NOAA's mission. If the general public had the same level of awareness of the physical sciences that these girls had, NOAA would be operating in a very different environment.

Educating the public is something we can all take an active role in. It is important that they be equipped with a basic understanding of science and then they can not only see the value of the products and services we offer, but they can begin to engage with us and shape the course for the future.

**Comments? Suggestions?
Want to be added to or removed from our list?**

Contact us at:
external.affairs@noaa.gov

NOAA on the Hill

Several Members of Congress and more than twenty staff members recently toured NOAA hurricane reconnaissance and research aircraft on display at Washington Reagan National Airport.

The event was held to announce the 2007 Atlantic hurricane seasonal forecast and to focus public attention on National Hurricane Preparedness Week. NOAA was also able to acquaint Members and their staffs of NOAA's sophisticated aircraft providing critical storm data to NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC).

Also on the tarmac was a United States Air Force Reserve C-130 aircraft and crew flown by 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron in Biloxi, MS. The squadron also provides data to the NHC and serves as a unique example of federal interagency cooperation.

The previous day, Under Suspension of the Rules, the House passed House Resolution 402 introduced by Rep. Mario Diaz Balart supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week.



NOAA Tackles Waterfront Access Issues and Solutions

NOAA's Sea Grant programs in several states collaborated on a report on waterfront access issues.

The report, "[Access to the Waterfront: Issues and Solutions Across the Nation \(pdf file\)](#)," contains the results of a survey of more than 140 coastal managers and extension agents. It details the competition for waterfront access among recreational, commercial, and industrial users, and discusses pressures on America's shorelines.

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) Holds Partners Workshop

NOAA's NWS will host its next Partners Workshop on June 20 in Silver Spring, MD. NWS holds Partners Workshops twice a year to gather feedback from partners and customers and to disseminate information on upcoming changes to the suite of NWS products and services. Attendees will include partners from the private sector, media, academia, and the emergency management community. Brig. Gen. D.L. Johnson (U.S. Air Force, Ret.), NOAA Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Director, NWS, and Mary Glackin, who will become Acting Director of NWS on July 1, will co-host.

This workshop will include a Listening Panel where partners share their views and concerns with NWS management. NWS will prepare and update a tracking and status list of action items brought up during the workshop discussions as part of workshop follow-up activities.

NWS Partners Workshops are a vital part of the *NOAA Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information*. The workshops provide a venue for customers and partners to comment on

NWS information services and receive information on all significant proposed changes to NWS information services, as specified in the Policy. The commercial meteorological sector is estimated to represent approximately \$400-700 million in annual gross receipts according to the Commercial Weather Services Association.

For registration information, e-mail john.simensky@noaa.gov, or call 301-713-0463, extension 150.

Upcoming Events May

28-31 – International Whaling Commission Meeting – Anchorage, AK

June

3-8 - Association of State Flood Plain Managers, Annual Meeting - Roanoke, VA

3-9 – Rip Current Awareness Week

4-7 – Association of State Wetland Managers Western State Workshop - Park City, UT

5-7 – Capitol Hill Oceans Week – Washington, DC

Did you know?

NOAA's first official seasonal hurricane forecast was issued in 1999. NOAA forecast an above-average season of 3 major storms that year.

The report also tells the good news that coastal communities are working with stakeholders on creative solutions such as land preservation pacts, partnerships between the fishing industry and land trusts, revised zon-

ing, bonds to protect working waterfronts, and tax relief programs.



The Sea Grant survey and report are expected to help communities, businesses, and individuals to identify and respond to waterfront challenges effectively. The NOAA Sea Grant program will continue to encourage development of a nationwide strategy to address coastal access conflicts at the local, regional and national level and ensure that delicate ecosystems are sustained.